

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Materials with high levels of unsaponifiable matter, such as extracts from plants, result in Hydrolysates with unique properties. The very properties that are sought in the traditional saponification of natural oils are a result of low levels of unsaponifiables. These properties include high levels of aqueous surfactant activity, water-solubility or ready water-dispersability, activity as foaming agents, and the like. The very objective of traditional saponification processes is to increase the water-solubility and surfactant activity of naturally occurring materials. It has been found that the application of a hydrolysis process to materials, particularly materials with a high level of unsaponifiables (e.g., at least 6% by total weight of the material) produces a product with properties significantly different from those products resulting from the conventional saponification of materials with less than 6% by weight of unsaponifiables. The resulting Hydrolysates from the practice of the present invention are substantive, resisting both physical and aqueous-based removal from skin and hair, exhibit a very unique surfactant property, and are not foaming agents with water. Hydrolysates according to the present invention may thus be used to enhance the performance of cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. These Hydrolysates are bioactive agents and alternative natural carrying agents for topical application of materials, particularly for application of materials to the skin or hair of subjects, and provide a substantive support for the materials carried.